Internet Time Capsule

This lesson is part of USE, UNDERSTAND & CREATE: A Digital Literacy Framework for Canadian Schools: http://mediasmarts.ca/teacher-resources/digital-literacy-framework.

Overview

In this lesson, students learn about the concept of "time capsules" and then apply the idea by selecting time capsule contents to represent both the time they live in and their own lives and tastes. They then extend this idea to online content, making a "time capsule" of any online content connected to them. Younger students finish the lesson by creating a group Internet time capsule, while older students finish by considering what online content they might like to remove or keep out of their "time capsules."

Learning Outcomes

- Students learn about the persistence of online data

Preparation and Materials

- Photocopy *My Time Capsule* worksheets
- Photocopy *My Internet Time Capsule* worksheets
- Photocopy *Time Capsule* icons sheets

Procedure

Start by drawing a three-column chart with the headings *Know*, *Want to Know* and *Learned.* Ask the class if they have ever heard of a "time capsule" and, if so, what they know about it. Write everything the students suggest in the *Know* column. Ask them what else they would *like* to know about time capsules and write that in the *Want to Know* column.

Now show the class this video: http://globalnews.ca/news/1641090/steinbach-elementary-school-opens-time-capsule/

(You may want to cue up the video ahead of time in order to skip pre-roll ads. If you are not able to show the video, read the text news story on the same page to the class.)

After students have watched the video, ask them what they learned about time capsules that they didn't know and write that in the *Learned* column. If the video showed that any of the students' suggestions in the *Know* column were incorrect, erase them or cross them off. If there is anything in the *Want to Know* column that is still unanswered, ask them how they might answer those questions. (For instance, if students asked "Are there are any time capsules buried in our town?" you might suggest asking the school board or city government or researching online with the terms "time capsule" and the name of your town. If students asked "Who invented the time capsule?" you might suggest looking up the term "time capsule" in an online or offline encyclopedia.)

Distribute the "Time Capsule" worksheet and icon page. Have students cut out the icons and paste them on the worksheet to represent their lives (their favourite TV shows, books, foods, clothes, photos, etc.) When students have completed their worksheets have the class discuss what they chose and why.

Now distribute the "Internet Time Capsule" worksheet and ask students to use it and the icons to make an Internet Time Capsule: a visual list of everything about *them* that exists online, no matter who created it: photos they or their parents/ friends posted, videos, content created for websites (such as avatars, houses, stories), etc.

When the students have finished their Internet time capsules, have the class discuss the difference between the two time capsules they created. Point out to them that unlike a real time capsule, their Internet time capsule *isn't* sealed – some of it can be accessed by anyone, some by only some people (social network contacts, the companies that own the sites they use) but all of it can be accessed by *someone*.

With younger students, you can complete the lesson by having them decide on what they think are the most important things (online and offline) to include in a time capsule for the whole class. (If you would like to have your class construct an actual time capsule, you can see this video for instructions: http://www.howcast.com/videos/354335-How-to-Make-a-Time-Capsule.)

Older students can reflect on whether there is anything they wish they could take *out* of their Internet time capsule or that they would be reluctant to put *in* it in the future.
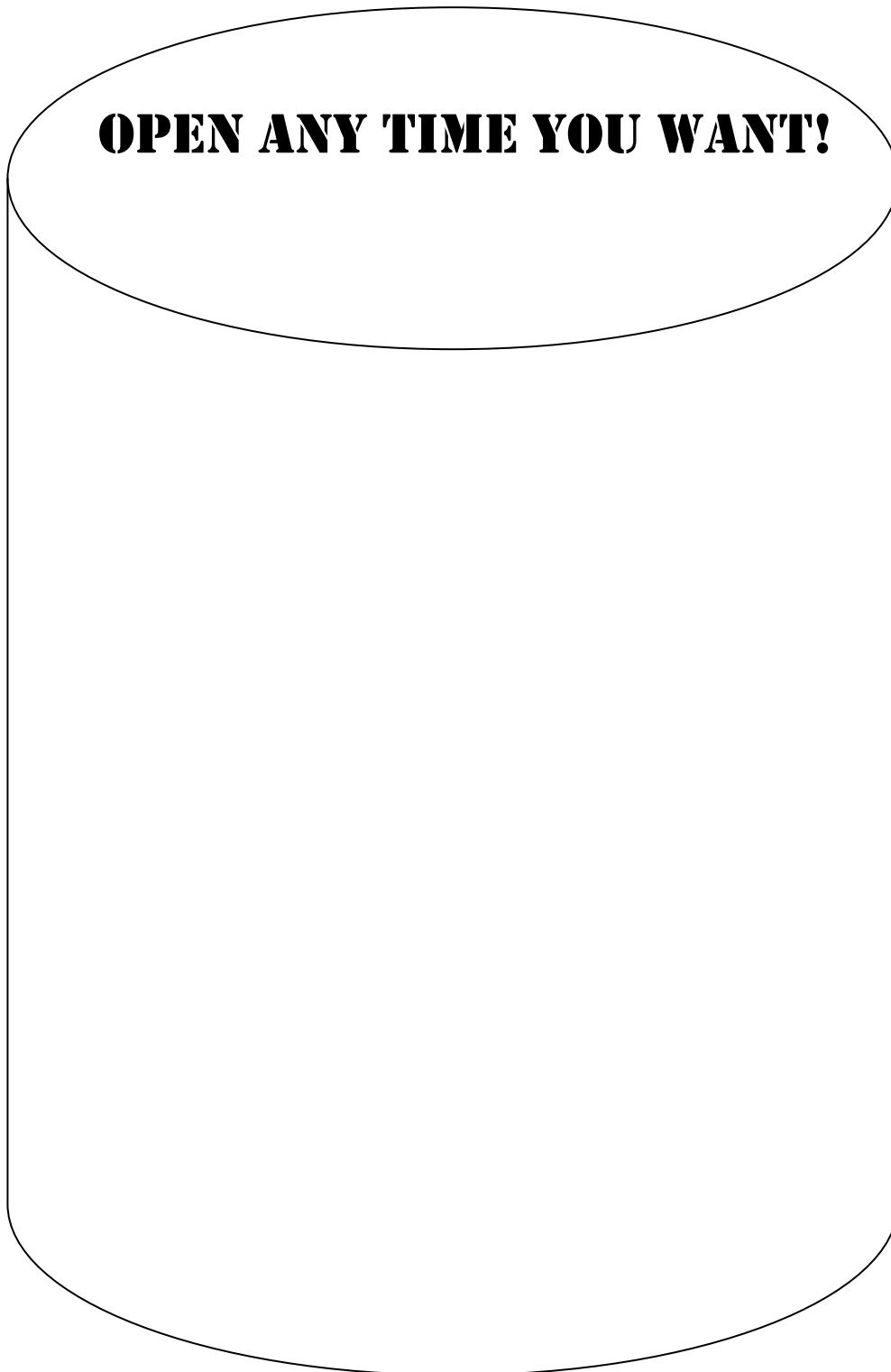
MY TIME CAPSULE

Cut out pictures of the different things you think should go into a time capsule of today. Then glue them into your time capsule below.

DO NOT OPEN UNTIL 2099

MY INTERNET TIME CAPSULE

Cut out pictures that stand for the different things you've made on the Internet, and the things other people have made that have you in them. Then glue them into your time capsule below.

OPEN ANY TIME YOU WANT!

Time Capsule Icons

BOOK   BOOK   BOOK   BOOK

CLOTHES   CLOTHES   CLOTHES   CLOTHES

FOOD   FOOD   FOOD   FOOD

MUSIC   MUSIC   MUSIC   MUSIC

VIDEO   VIDEO   VIDEO   VIDEO

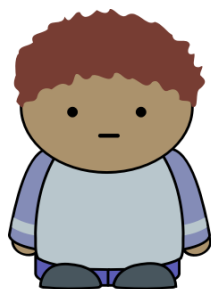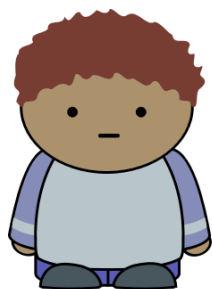GAME   GAME   GAME   GAME
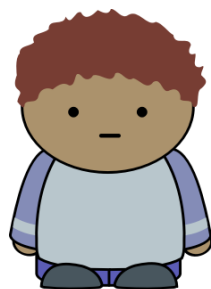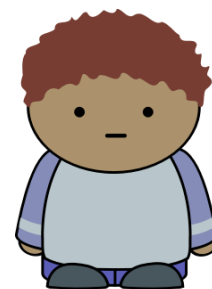
PHOTO   PHOTO   PHOTO   PHOTO

DRAWING   DRAWING   DRAWING   DRAWING

AVATAR   AVATAR   AVATAR   AVATAR